

Members

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Rep. Charlie Brown
Rep. Cindy Noe
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Kathleen O'Connell
Stacey Cornett
Margie Payne
Ronda Ames
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Caroline Doebbling
Kurt Carlson
Chris Taelman
Jane Horn
Dr. Danita Johnson-Hughes



COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 30, 2009
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: Harrison Room Grand Wayne Center
Meeting City: Fort Wayne, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Stacey Cornett; Ronda Ames; Valerie N. Markley; Caroline Doebbling; Kurt Carlson; Chris Taelman; Jane Horn; Dr. Danita Johnson-Hughes.

Members Absent: Sen. Vi Simpson; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Cindy Noe; Loretta Kroin; Kathleen O'Connell; Margie Payne; Bryan Lett.

I. Call to Order

Senator Lawson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Senator Lawson thanked Mr. Andy Wilson, Executive Director of the Carriage House, and members of the Carriage House Clubhouse for their hospitality with tours in the morning and lunch. Senator Lawson told those present that Senator Vi Simpson and

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Representatives Charlie Brown and Cindy Noe, legislative members of the Commission on Mental Health (COMH), were unable to attend the meeting because of conflicting meetings. The chairperson introduced Ms. Kathy Green from Congressman Mark Souder's office who attended the tour of the Carriage House and was attending the meeting.

Chairperson Lawson indicated that Representative Matt Bell had attended the tour but had a previous commitment and was unable to attend the meeting. Senator David Long, who had ensured that the topic of clubhouses was on the agenda for the COMH for the interim, sent his regrets. Due to a prior commitment, Senator Long was unable to attend the meeting. Also sending regrets were Representatives Jeff Espich, Matthew Lehman, and Phyllis Pond. Senators Gary Dillon, Travis Holdman, Dennis Kruse, and Tom Wyss also sent regrets due to conflicts with schedules. Representative Win Moses was unable to attend and sent a letter, which Senator Lawson read to the COMH, expressing his support for the Carriage House. (Attachment 1)

Chairperson Lawson recognized **Representative Randy Borrer** who thanked the COMH members for their interest in the Carriage House and for coming to Fort Wayne. He mentioned the efforts on behalf of individuals with mental illness by his predecessor Representative Gloria Goeglein and by Ms. Abigail Flynn, a recently deceased member of the COMH. Representative Borrer expressed support for efforts to find funding to continue the programs of the Carriage House and other clubhouse programs in Indiana.

Senator Lawson next recognized Representative **Phillip GiaQuinta** who also thanked the COMH for coming to Fort Wayne. He told those present that Representative Borrer has continued former Representative Goeglein's efforts on behalf of individuals with mental illness and expressed hope that money can be found to continue the Carriage House programs.

Senator Lawson recognized Mr. Steve McCaffrey, Mental Health America of Indiana, and Ms. Pam Maconey and Mr. Joe Vanable of NAMI who were in attendance. Senator Lawson also indicated that Ms. Jessaca Turner-Stults of the Family and Social Services Administration was in attendance at the meeting.

II. Presentations Concerning Clubhouses

A. Mr. Andy Wilson, Executive Director, the Carriage House, thanked the COMH for coming to Fort Wayne and discussed the funding issues facing the clubhouses with a loss of Medicaid funding in July of 2010. (Attachment 2) Mr. Wilson stated that Indiana is in a unique place to embrace real recovery for individuals with mental illness.

B. Mr. John Wilford, member of the Sunshine Clubhouse, discussed the importance of the clubhouse in his life. (Attachment 3)

C. Ms. Colleen McKay, Program Director, Program for Clubhouse Research, discussed best practice outcomes and the cost effectiveness of clubhouse programs. (Attachment 4) In answer to questions from Senator Lawson about what other states were doing to counteract the loss of Medicaid funds for clubhouse activities, Ms. McKay said that other states handle Medicaid differently and may not be having the same problem as Indiana.

(D) Dr. Jay Fawver, Psychiatrist, Fawver Wellness Clinic, discussed the importance of the hope provided by the clubhouse program. (Attachment 5)

(E) Deputy Chief Dottie Davis, Fort Wayne Police Department, discussed the importance of crisis intervention teams (CIT) for the Fort Wayne Police Department. The Police Department estimates that over 1,000 police interactions a year are with individuals with mental illness. The Carriage House has offered training and provides for a positive alternative to arrest and incarceration by providing hope for individuals with mental illness.

(F) Ms. Patsy Hendricks, Director of Clinical Services, Parkview Behavioral Health, discussed the importance of the Carriage House as an alternative for hospital care for individuals with mental illness in Fort Wayne, (Attachment 6)

(G) Deputy Steve Stone, Public Information Officer, Allen County Sheriff's Department, expressed Chief Ken Fries's regret that he could not attend the meeting. Deputy Stone testified that in lock up there is a large percentage of individuals with mental health issues for whom jail is not the best alternative. The Carriage House provides members a place to go so that they do not end up in the criminal justice system.

(H) The honorable David Avery, Allen Superior Court, discussed the importance of mental health courts and alternatives for individuals with mental illness. (Attachment 7) Judge Avery stressed the importance of the Carriage House to long term recovery.

(I) Mr. Larry Hayes, Previous Editorial Page Editor for the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, discussed the importance of the Carriage House to his family. (Attachment 8)

(J) Mr. Steve Manning, Member of the Carriage House, discussed the importance of the Carriage House in his life. (Attachment 9)

(K) Mr. Matt Brooks, Executive Director, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, opened his remarks by thanking Senator Lawson for her support of mental health services. Mr. Brooks also thanked the Fort Wayne Legislative delegation for their support of services for individuals with mental illness. Mr. Brooks provided testimony regarding the federal compliance reasons that the FSSA/Division of Mental Health & Addiction has determined the current funding method for clubhouse activities is no longer allowable under federal CMS rules. Mr. Brooks expressed the support of Community Mental Health Centers for the clubhouse recovery model. He expressed his belief that the activities and programs currently undertaken with the fifteen clubhouses currently operating under the Community Mental Health network is geared more towards non-Medicaid related services. He indicated that he thinks legislative leaders should examine the potential for clubhouse funding from state workforce or supported employment revenue sources, which is more in line with the types of services clubhouses provide. He also indicated that clubhouses should seek increases in private funding. In answer to questions, Mr. Brooks said that he thought all funding sources should be examined.

(L) Mr. Andy Wilson, Executive Director of the Carriage House, made closing comments. (Attachment 10)

III. Senator Lawson thanked all those who participated in the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:20 P.M.

Attachment 11 is a letter provided by Ms. Carol McMaster concerning her son's experience at the Carriage House.